(a) the present status of the deals on the acquisition of AWACS, mirage 2000 and MIG-21/MIG-29, which are needed for our combat capabilites;

(b) whether Government have approached the US for technology transfer of certain sub-systems on the subject;

(c) if so, the response received from the US; and

(d) how long will it take to introduce AWACS in our defence system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES): (a) There is no current deal on the acquisition of Mirage 2000 or MIG-21/MIG-29 aircraft. Technical parameters are being worked out on AWACS.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It would not be possible to lay down a time limit for induction of such a system.

Medical facilites to ex-servicemen in Army Hospitals

2450. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:
SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ex-servicemen are not entitled to medical facilities in the army hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons for exclusing the ex-servicemen from such facilities; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the matter and if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. The ex-servicemen are entitled to medical treatment in military hospitals to the extent facilities are available locally in these hospitals.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Government is also contemplating to improve the medical cover to ex-servicemen and their dependents.

Termination of lease of Defence land to Madras Diocesan Trust Association and YMCA

2451. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minster of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that defence land measuring 4.25 acres and buildings thereon were leased to Madras Dioceasan Trust Association in 1931 and one of the building was permitted for use by YMCA;

(b) whether the Ministry hired a part of the same building from YMCA in 1975 for office of MES formation on a monthly rent of Rs. 1345 which was enhanced to Rs. 5500 per month without checking its ownership; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to terminate the lease and recover the payment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Defence land measuring 4.25 acres and not the buildings in Survey No. 345 in Wellington Cantonment was given on lease to Madras Diocesan Trust Association in 1931. The buildings on that land have been constructed by the lessee and are private property. A portion of the building is on hire with defence since 1974 at a rent of Rs. 1345/- per month The rent was revised to Rs. 5,500/- in 1999, but the revised rent has not been paid so far due to ownership dispute.

Military Cooperation with Russia

2452. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian Deputy Prime Minister has recently visited India and reached agreements in military cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have decided to procure figher planes from Russia; and